

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 917.39

EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 917.36 Expenses.

Each commodity committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and are likely to be incurred by the said commodity committee during each fiscal period for the maintenance and functioning of such committee, including its proportionate share of the expenses of the Control Committee; and for such research and service activities relating to handling of the fruit for which the commodity committee was established as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate. The funds to cover such expenses shall be acquired by the levying of assessments as provided in § 917.37.

§ 917.37 Assessments.

(a) As his/her pro rata share of the expenses which the Secretary finds are reasonable and are likely to be incurred by the commodity committees during a fiscal period, each handler shall pay to the Control Committee, upon demand, assessments on all fruit handled by him/her. The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the committees may be required under this part throughout the period it is in effect irrespective of whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative.

(b) The Secretary shall fix the respective rate of assessment, which handlers shall pay with respect to each fruit during each fiscal period in an amount designed to secure sufficient funds to cover the respective expenses, which may be incurred during such period. At any time during or after the fiscal period, the Secretary may increase the rates of assessment in order to secure funds to cover any later findings by the Secretary relative to such expenses, and such increase shall apply to all fruit shipped during the fiscal period. Furthermore, any assessment not paid by a peach handler within a period of time prescribed by the Control Committee may be subject to an interest or late payment charge, or both. The period of time, rate of interest and late payment charge shall be as recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary. Subsequent to

such approval, all assessments for peaches not paid within the prescribed period of time shall be subject to an interest or late payment charge or both.

(c) In order to provide funds to carry out the functions of the commodity committee prior to commencement of shipments in any season, shippers may make advance payments of assessments, which advance payments shall be credited to such shippers and the assessments of such shippers shall be adjusted so that such assessments are based upon the quantity of fruit shipped by such shippers during such season. Any shipper who ships fruit for the account of a grower may deduct, from the account of sale covering such shipment or shipments, the amount of assessments levied on said fruit shipped for the account of such grower.

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§ 917.38 Accounting.

If, at the end of a fiscal period the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, each commodity committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may carry over such excess into subsequent fiscal periods as a reserve: *Provided*, That funds already in the reserve do not exceed approximately one fiscal period's expenses. Such reserve funds may be used (1) to cover any expenses authorized by this part and (2) to cover necessary expenses of liquidation in the event of termination of this part. If any such excess is not retained in a reserve, each handler entitled to a proportionate refund shall be credited with such refund against the operations of the following fiscal period or be paid such refund. Upon termination of this part, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate: *Provided*, That, to the extent practical, such funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.

RESEARCH

§ 917.39 Production research, market research and development.

The committees, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish or provide

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for the establishment of production research, marketing research, and development projects designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, and consumption or efficient production of fruit. Such projects may provide for any form of marketing promotion including paid advertising. The expenses of such projects shall be paid from funds collected pursuant to §917.37.

REGULATIONS

§917.40 Recommendations for regulations.

(a) Whenever a commodity committee deems it advisable to regulate the handling of any variety or varieties of fruit in the manner provided in §917.41, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.

(b) In arriving at its recommendations for regulation pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, the commodity committee shall give consideration to current information with respect to the factors affecting the supply and demand for such fruit during the period or periods when it is proposed that such regulation should be made effective. With each such recommendation for regulation, the commodity committee shall submit to the Secretary the data and information on which such recommendation is predicated and such other available information as the Secretary may request.

§917.41 Issuance of regulations.

(a) The Secretary shall regulate, in the manner specified in this section, the handling of any variety or varieties of fruit whenever he finds, from the recommendations and information submitted by the commodity committee, or from other available information, that such regulations will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act. Such regulations may:

(1) Limit, during any period or periods, the total quantity of any grade, size, quality, maturity, or pack, or any combination thereof, of any variety or varieties of fruit;

(2) Limit the shipment of any variety or varieties of fruit by establishing, in terms of grades, sizes, or both, minimum standards of quality and maturity

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during any period when season average prices are expected to exceed the parity level;

(3) Fix the size, capacity, weight, dimensions, markings, or pack of the container, or containers, which may be used in the packaging or handling of any fruit.

(b) The commodity committee shall be informed immediately of any such regulation issued by the Secretary, and the commodity committee shall promptly give notice thereof to handlers.

§917.42 Modification, suspension, or termination of regulations.

(a) In the event the commodity committee at any time finds that, by reason of changed conditions, any regulations issued pursuant to §917.41 should be modified, suspended, or terminated, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.

(b) Whenever the Secretary finds, from the recommendations and information submitted by the commodity committee or from other available information, that a regulation should be modified, suspended, or terminated with respect to any or all shipments of fruit in order to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall modify, suspend, or terminate such regulation. If the Secretary finds that a regulation obstructs or does not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall suspend or terminate such regulation. On the same basis and in like manner the Secretary may terminate any such modification or suspension.

§917.43 Special purpose shipments.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person may, without regard to the provisions of §§917.37, 917.41, and 917.42, and the regulations issued thereunder, handle fruit (1) for consumption by charitable institutions; (2) for distribution by relief agencies; or (3) for commercial processing into products.

(b) Upon the basis of recommendations and information submitted by the commodity committee, or from other available information, the Secretary may relieve from any or all requirements, under or established pursuant to §917.41, §917.42, §917.45, or §917.37,